

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00 HA-05 TRSY-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1589

INFO AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MATAMOROS

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL NUEVO LAREDO

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

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TAGS: SPOP, ELAB, ECON, CGEN, PDEV, MX, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF FIRST INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

ON MIGRANT WORKERS IN MEXICO AND UNITED STATES

REF: (NOTAL) GUADALAJARAA 0832, 0939 AND 1083

1. SUMMARY: THE UNIVERSITY OF GUADALAJARA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE CENTER FOR CHICANO STUDIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HELD A FOUR-DAY SYMPOSIUM (JULY 11-14) ON MIGRANT WORKERS IN MEXICO AND THE U.S. THE SYMPOSIUM, WHICH WAS OSTENSIBLY "ACADEMIC" IN CHARACTER, DEVELOPED A VARIETY OF POLITICAL THEMES WHICH RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE MEXICAN PRESS. EMBASSY AND CONGEN GUADALAJARA OFFICERS WERE INVITED AND ATTENDED AS "UNOFFICIAL OBSERVERS." END SUMMARY.

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2. THE SYMPOSIUM WAS DIVIDED INTO THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

--AGRARIAN PROBLEM AND GENERATION OF MIGRATORY LABOR IN MEXICO - JULY 11

--MIGRATORY LABOR CURRENTS IN MEXICO - JULY 12

--PROBLEMS OF THE MEXICAN-U.S. BORDER - JULY 13

--CHICANOS AND MEXICANS IN THE U.S. - JULY 14

BOTH MEXICAN AND FOREIGN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES--INCLUDING CUBA'S PRENSA LATINA--ATTENDED MOST OF THE SESSIONS. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL ORGANIZERS OF THE SYMPOSIUM WAS MEXICAN LAWYER HUGO TULIO MELENDEZ PRECIADO, A SELF-PROCLAIMED MARXIST WHOSE BROTHER JORGE IS A PROMINENT MEMBER OF THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY.

3. APART FROM THE MORE SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS, SOME OF THE MAJOR POLITICAL THEMES ORCHESTRATED DURING THIS "ACADEMIC" SYMPOSIUM INCLUDED:

(A) EXPLOITATION OF AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN MIGRANTS AND CHICANOS.

(B) INJUSTICES AND CRISIS OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM IN MEXICO AND THE U.S.--NEED FOR UNITY IN THE CLASS STRUGGLE AND CLOSER TIES BETWEEN MEXICANS AND CHICANOS.

(C) MEXICAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DEPENDENCE ON THE U.S.

(D) OPPOSITION TO CARTER PROGRAM ON UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS.

(E) FAILURES AND INJUSTICES IN THE MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR DUE IN PART TO EXPLOITIVE CAPITALISM AND FOREIGN DOMINATION.

(F) EXPLOITATION BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AND IN-BOND UNCLASSIFIED

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U.S. BORDER INDUSTRIES.

(G) GROWING POLITICAL ROLE OF CHICANOS AND MEXICAN SUPPORT FOR THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST EXPLOITATION.

(H) CIA AND FBI REPRESSIVE INVOLVEMENT IN MEXICO, AND USG PLANS TO MILITARIZE BORDER AND USE UNDOCUMENTED PROBLEM TO PRESSURE MEXICO.

4. IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FORMAL PAPERS BY U.S. AND MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS (EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED A SET TO THE DEPARTMENT BY UNCLASSIFIED POUCH), THE SYMPOSIUM GENERATED CONSIDERABLE PRESS COVERAGE AND A NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS WITH U.S. AND MEXICAN INVITEES. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS OF SYMPOSIUM PRESS COVERAGE:

JULY 11

BOTH GUADALAJARA AND MEXICO CITY PAPERS COVER STATEMENTS BY JUAN GOMEZ QUINONES, DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR CHICANO STUDIES, AS STATING:

--U.S. EXPLOITS AND DISCRIMINATES AGAINST MEXICAN UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS.

--PROBLEM MUST BE RESOLVED BY BOTH USG AND GOM, BUT ALSO INVOLVES TRANSNATIONAL CAPITAL AND PRIVILEGED GROUPS WHICH USE AND EXPLOIT CHEAP LABOR THAT SUBSIDIZES U.S. ECONOMY.

--CAUSE IS NOT MERELY MEXICAN AGRARIAN CRISIS BUT ALSO FROM OTHER SECTORS OF MEXICO'S ECONOMY SUBORDINATED TO U.S. CAPITAL WHICH CREATES AND EXPLOITS CHEAP LABOR TO INCREASE PROFITS.

--USG PURSUES "DOUBLE POLICY" OF PERSECUTING UNDOCUMENTEDS

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WHILE PERMITTING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES THAT GENERATE PROFITS FOR U.S. BUSINESS AND BENEFIT U.S. ECONOMY SO THAT USG CAN MAINTAIN HIGH MILITARY EXPENDITURES.

--DRAMATIC REPRESSION OF KU KLUX KLAN IS NOT AS SERIOUS AS POLICY OF INS WHICH DENIES RIGHTS TO WORKERS OF MEXICAN ORIGIN.

AS INDICATED GUADALAJARA 1083, UNIVERSITY RECTOR ZAMBRANO OPENED SYMPOSIUM BY STATING THAT MEXICAN MIGRATION IS

RESULT OF CHRONIC ECONOMIC CRISIS WHICH IS RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL MEXICANS AND "A SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC DOMINATION WHICH HAS REDUCED OUR COUNTRY TO A SITUATION OF DEPENDENCY AND EXPLOITATION."

IN SEPARATE INTERVIEW CARRIED WIDELY IN MEXICAN PRESS, DR. JORGE BUSTAMANTE OF EL COLEGIO DE MEXICO SAID U.S. POPU-
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LATION OF MEXICAN DESCENT IS GROWING RAPIDLY AND WOULD IN 20 YEARS CONTROL MAJORITY OF VOTES IN BORDER STATES, INCLUDING CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS WHICH HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE IN ELECTING PRESIDENTS. CHICANOS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN U.S.-MEXICAN RELATIONS AND THEIR ROLE WILL DEPEND ON WHAT ATTITUDE THE GOM AND MEXICAN PEOPLE ADOPT TOWARD THEIR PROBLEMS, HE ADDED.

PRESS COVERAGE OF FIRST DAY'S MEETING ALSO EMPHASIZED (A) STATEMENTS BY UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PROFESSOR JOHN BARCHFIELD THAT LAND TENURE IN MEXICO IS A MEANS OF POLITICAL CONTROL WHICH VARIES WITH EACH SEXENIO, (B) COLEGIO DE MEXICO PROFESSOR SERGIO ALCANTARA'S ANALYSIS OF AGRARIAN PROBLEMS AND CONFLICTS DURING 1976-78, AND (C) AGRICULTURAL ADVISOR GUSTAVO ESTEVA'S ANALYSIS OF THE FAILURE OF AGRICULTURE TO ABSORB RURAL LABOR OR PRODUCE NEEDED FOOD.

JULY 12

COMPLEMENTING THEMES OUTLINED IN GUADALAJARA 1083, SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSION OF MIGRATORY LABOR CURRENTS FOCUSED ON INADEQUACIES OF MEXICAN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM, POPULATION PRESSURES AND OTHER PUSH FACTORS COMPELLING MIGRATION FROM COUNTRYSIDE TO URBAN CENTERS AND U.S.

PRESS GAVE MAJOR COVERAGE TO CLAIMS BY PETER BAIRD OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESS FOR LATIN AMERICA THAT (A) FBI AND CIA AGENTS ARE ACTIVE IN REPRESSION OF MEXICANS, (B) THE USG IS SEEKING THROUGH THE CARTER PLAN TO MILITARIZE THE BORDER AND USE ITS ASSISTANCE TO THE MEXICAN MILITARY FOR POLITICAL OBJECTIVES, AND (C) THE USG USES THE UNDOCUMENTED WORKER ISSUE TO PRESSURE MEXICO ON OTHER ISSUES. BAIRD AND OTHERS STRONGLY CRITICIZED EX-CIA DIRECTOR COLBY'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS PURPORTEDLY WARNING THAT UNDOCUMENTED
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MEXICAN MIGRATION IS GREATER THREAT TO U.S. THAN THE SOVIET UNION.

ESTEBAN FLORES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ANALYZED FAILURE OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM, DENOUNCED CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP MEASURES AGAINST UNDOCUMENTEDS, AND CALLED FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH CLASS STRUGGLE AGAINST UNJUST EXPLOITATION OF MEXICANS AND CHICANOS.

DR. JORGE BUSTAMANTE WARNED THAT THE CARTER PLAN TO REORGANIZE FEDERAL AGENCIES DEALING WITH THE BORDER WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR MEXICO.

GIL CARDENAS OF U. OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN AND CAMILO GARCIA OF UCLA DISCUSSED DIMENSIONS OF THE UNDOCUMENTED WORKER PROBLEM, DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MEXICAN-AMERICANS IN THE U.S., AND ADVOCATED A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL ALIENS AND BETTER CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS.

JULY 13

COLEGIO DE MEXICO PROFESSOR DR. MARGARITA NOLASCO PRESENTED A STUDY ON THE BORDER AREA, ESPECIALLY TIJUANA, EMPHASIZING DEGREE OF ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY, U.S. CULTURAL PENETRATION AND MEXICAN DEPENDENCY, AND FAILURE OF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR RAPID INCREASE IN TRANSIENT POPULATION ATTRACTED TO U.S.

MEXICAN GRADUATE STUDENT FROM UCLA, ISIDRO SEPULVEDA GARZA, SPOKE OF MEXICAN DEPENDENCE ON U.S. AND INABILITY OF MEXICAN ECONOMY TO PROVIDE REMUNERATIVE JOBS. HE CHARACTERIZED POLITICAL CHANGE AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN PROMOTING NECESSARY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORMS.

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VERONICA VILLARESPE OF UNAM (NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO) DISCUSSED ALLEGED EXPLOITATION AND DEPENDENCY REPRESENTED BY FOREIGN-OWNED "MAQUILADORAS" (IN-BOND INDUSTRIES).

RESEARCHERS ALFREDO CESAR DACHARY AND MICHAEL CAMARA CLAIMED U.S. IS DEPICTING UNDOCUMENTED MEXICAN WORKERS AS PARASITIC IN ORDER TO CREATE UNFAVORABLE IMAGE, ENCOURAGE A RACIST APPROACH TO ISSUE AND PRESS FOR MASSIVE DEPORTATION.

FINAL DAY FEATURED PRESENTATION BY JUAN GOMEZ QUINONES ON HISTORY AND POLITICAL STRUGGLES OF CHICANO MOVEMENT IN U.S.; PAPER BY ARTURO MADRID (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA) ON RECENT COURT DECISIONS AFFECTING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHICANOS AND MEXICAN WORKERS IN U.S.; ANOTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERVIEW BY GOMEZ QUINONES ON ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE CHICANO COMMUNITY AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S REPRESSIVE CHARACTER UNDER GUISE OF EXTERIOR BENEVOLENCE; MEXICAN INTELLECTUAL CARLOS MONSIVAIS' CALL FOR ACTIVE GOM PROTEST AGAINST MILITARIZATION OF BORDER, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND A COMMON STRUGGLE OF MEXICANS AND CHICANOS AGAINST FASCIST REGIMES THAT VIOLATE HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. AT CONCLUSION OF THE SYMPOSIUM, RECTOR ZAMBRANO CALLED A PRESS CONFERENCE TO REPORT THAT U. OF GUADALAJARA HAD DECIDED TO CREATE A CENTER FOR U.S. AND CANADIAN STUDIES, INCLUDING A DEPARTMENT FOR CHICANO STUDIES. HE SAID MIGRATORY WORKERS WOULD BE ONE OF THE PROBLEMS ANALYZED IN COORDINATION WITH THE CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR CHICANO STUDIES AND OTHER SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS IN U.S. NEW CENTER WILL ANALYZE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS IN U.S.-CANADA AND THEIR IMPACT ON MEXICO. DR. BUSTAMANTE IN SUMMING UP RESULTS OF SYMPOSIUM CHARACTERIZED CREATION OF NEW U.S.-CANADIAN STUDIES CENTER A POSITIVE STEP ENDING MEXICAN APATHY TOWARD THIS IMPORTANT ETHNIC GROUP.

6. EMBASSY WILL SEND FULL SET OF PRESS CLIPPINGS BY UNCLASSIFIED POUCH FOR APPROPRIATE DISTRIBUTION BY DEPART-

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Message Attributes

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